

Nearly everyone agrees that our immigration policies need to be reformed. We need secure borders to ensure the safety of our nation. We also need a fair and efficient process for law-abiding immigrants to acquire citizenship and become integrated into the fabric of our society.

Bureaucratic Delays Lead to Family Hardships

I have heard from many of you in Silicon Valley that have applied for immigration documents and then faced lengthy processing delays due to background checks conducted by the government. Many have already waited years for their work authorizations, green cards, and naturalization applications to be approved.

I have heard heartbreaking stories involving family members separated for long periods of time, restrictions on the ability to travel and work, uncertainty in making life decisions, and the inability to fully engage in American civic life, and realize the American dream.

I am happy to report that earlier this month that the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) changed its policy regarding background checks. The change will allow immigrants who are already in the United States and applying for legal residency to obtain green cards before FBI “name checks” are completed. These are individuals who have met all other requirements for permanent residence and have passed an automated fingerprint check, yet have been waiting more than six months for FBI “name check” clearance. National security is not compromised under the new policy as [FBI checks will continue](#) , and the immigrants can be deported if the FBI discovers a problem.

This is a step in the right direction towards reunifying families, stimulating economic growth in the Valley, and restoring peace of mind to the many of you in my district that have been affected by these delays. As a Member of the Appropriations Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, which has jurisdiction over the FBI, I will continue to advocate for funding that will increase efficiency in our immigration system, and ease these bureaucratic backlogs.